



POLICY BULLETIN

No. 18-05

Issued Date: March 3/20/2018

Effective Date: Immediately

Subject: Governor Tom Wolf's Proclamation of Disaster Emergency

On January 10, 2018, Governor Tom Wolf issued a Proclamation of Disaster Emergency related to the opioid epidemic that directly impacts treatment in Pennsylvania. Pursuant to the proclamation, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) regulation at 28 Pa. Code §710.3(a) is being waived for hospitals and emergency rooms performing short-term Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for the duration of the disaster emergency declaration, which is 90 days. However, a permanent waiver can be requested.

28 Pa. Code §710.3(a) - During the emergency declaration, 1) hospitals and emergency rooms who administer buprenorphine, methadone, or other medications to a person for the purpose of relieving acute withdrawal symptoms may do so without requiring a certification by DDAP for up to three days when necessary while arrangements are being made for a referral to drug and alcohol treatment; and 2) a physician or hospital staff authorized to administer or dispense narcotic drugs in a hospital to maintain detox or detoxify a person as an incidental adjunct to medical or surgical treatment of conditions other than addiction can administer or dispense narcotic drugs to persons with intractable pain in which no relief or cure is possible, or none has been found after reasonable efforts, may do so without requiring certification by DDAP.

Hospitals and emergency rooms that want to request a waiver of this regulation beyond the 90-day disaster declaration period are strongly encouraged to file an exception request at RA-DADISASTERPROCLAM@pa.gov, as soon as possible with the Division of D&A Program Licensing.

Questions regarding this Policy Bulletin and exception requests shall be directed to Wenona Wake, Bureau Director for Quality Assurance for Prevention and Treatment, Division of D&A Program Licensing at (717)783-8675 or wwake@pa.gov.